

TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION STAR AWARD 2004 APPLICATION PROCESS

Purpose

The Texas Higher Education (THE) Star Award, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, recognizes higher education institutions, organizations, groups, and individuals for their exceptional contributions toward one or more of the goals of *Closing the Gaps by 2015*, the Texas higher education plan adopted by the Coordinating Board in October 2000. The plan establishes four goals to close the gaps in student participation, to close the gaps in student success, to close the gaps in educational excellence, and to close the gaps in research efforts. (See *Closing the Gaps 2015* at: www.thecb.state.tx.us).

For 2004, the award will focus on pre-imminent programs and services that contribute to the goals in *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. The applications received will be reviewed initially in three categories: (1) two-year colleges; (2) universities and health-related institutions; and (3) partnerships (including multiple institutions), individuals, and other entities and organizations.

In addition to a custom-designed award, recipients receive public recognition for their efforts to develop and implement the state's most successful higher education programs, projects, and activities. A maximum of 12 awards are presented annually.

Eligibility

Texas public and independent two-year and four-year colleges and universities, public technical and state colleges, public and independent health science centers, degree-granting private career schools and colleges, and other organizations, groups, and individuals focused on education are eligible for THE Star Award.

Criteria

Nominated programs/activities **must**:

- a. Demonstrate a history of excellence in the areas of instruction, student support services, and/or partnerships (with other institutions, the business community, or the public community);
- b. Demonstrate an outstanding contribution that clearly contributes to achieving the goals and targets established in *Closing the Gaps*;
- c. Have been in operation for at least two years; and
- d. Demonstrate at least two years of successful outcomes, with benchmarks that allow progress to be monitored and evaluated.

Step One

To be considered for THE Star Award, programs/activities must be nominated. Nominations are due by June 11, 2004. A nomination letter may be sent to: THE Star Award, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, P.O. Box 12788, Austin, TX 78711 or faxed to 512/427-6444.

Step Two

An application form must be completed for each program or activity nominated for THE Star Award. Nominees will be notified by June 21 that a formal application must be received by the Coordinating Board. To be considered, the application must be received at the Coordinating Board's offices by 5:00 p.m. on August 20, 2004.

Review Process

A nine-member committee appointed by the Chairman of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will review the nominated programs, projects, and activities, and then determine which of them will be honored with THE Star Award. Committee membership will include three members of the Coordinating Board, three Texas business and community leaders, and three out-of-state educational experts.

Finalists

Finalists will be notified in mid-September.

Awards Presentation

The awards will be presented in the fall of 2004 in Austin.

Timeline for 2004 THE Star Awards

May 5	Announcement of 2004 Star Award Program and call for nominations
May 14	Application forms and supporting materials posted to the Board's web site
June 11	Nomination deadline
June 21	Nominees notified
August 20	Application deadline and appointment of Review Committee
August 23 – September 10	Staff review panel reviews and recommends finalists to Commissioner
September 15	Finalists materials sent to Review Committee and finalists notified
October 8	Review Committee ballots due
TBA	Awards Presentation